

What is MiCAFE?

MiCAFE (Michigan's Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly) is a program that helps Michigan seniors apply for Food Assistance. MiCAFE has taken the complicated and lengthy paper application and placed it online, in an easy-to-understand interview format. Each MiCAFE site is manned by trained Application Assistants that will take seniors step-by-step through the application process. Because these assistants are there to answer questions, many seniors find that the process of applying for food assistance is relatively easy.

In addition, the federal Department of Human Services (DHS) has waived the traditional in-person interview to all those who apply for food assistance through a MiCAFE site. This further alleviates the hardships of applying. You now only have to travel to an area senior center rather than a particular DHS Office.

Did you know...

On average, about 19 million people living in 8.2 million households received Food Assistance Program benefits in the United States each month in 2002. Only about 30% of eligible seniors, however, actually take advantage of its benefits. MiCAFE works to make the application process as easy as possible, in the hopes of ensuring that eligible seniors will receive all the benefits they are entitled to.

How it works...

Once the food assistance application has been completed the assistant will print off two copies: one for the applicant's personal records and one that will be mailed to the county DHS. Because no interview is necessary, the applicant has nothing further to do except wait to receive the benefits.

Receiving and using food assistance benefits is easier than ever before. Paper food coupons or stamps are no longer used. Instead, the benefits are put into an account and the senior is given a "bridge card" which can be used at grocery stores just like a credit or debit card. Funds are automatically put onto the card each month so the senior will have immediate access to their benefits.

Worth the Time!

Many people believe that the benefits are not great enough to offset the burden of applying. Because MiCAFE makes the application process much easier than before, and because the benefits are (on average) greater than people may think, applying for food assistance is truly worth it. Seniors using MiCAFE on average receive \$60 per month in food assistance benefits.

How to Apply...

Select from the following list to view application sites in your county:

Branch County

- Branch Commission on Aging-HC Burnside Senior Center
(517) 279-6565
- Community Action Agency-Coldwater
(517) 279-8249

Cass County

- Cass County Council on Aging
(269) 445-8110 -or- 1-800-323-0390

Eaton County

- Eaton Area Senior Center
(517) 541-2934
- Eaton Rapids Medical Center
(517) 663-9524
Clients are to call 1-877-664-2233 for appointments
- Vermont Village Office
(517) 726-1429

Genesee County

- Burton Senior Center
(810) 744-0960
- Carman-Ainsworth Senior Center
(810) 732-6290
- Clio Area Senior Center
(810) 687-7260
- Davison Senior Center
(810) 658-1566
- Eastside Senior Center
(810) 250-5000
- Flushing Area Senior Center
(810) 659-4735

- Grand Blanc Senior Center
(810) 695-3202
- Krapohl Senior Center
(810) 785-2270
- Retired and Senior Volunteers
(810) 760 -1092
- Spanish Speaking Information Center
(810) 239-4417
- Valley Area Agency on Aging
(810) 239-7671 ext. 221/243
- Mount Tabor Baptist Church
(810) 232-3262
- Hasselbring Senior Center
1-877-664-2233
- Braidwood Manor
(810) 653-1808
- Court Street Village
(810) 239-4400
- Flint Heights Terrace
(810) 239-2159
- Pierce Senior Center
(877) 664-2233
- Hispanic Technology Center
(810) 424-3760
- Millpond Manor
(810) 629-1179
- Hamilton Community Health Network
 - ~ Clio Road - (810) 787-4445
 - ~ N. Saginaw St. - (810) 489-9141 ext. 5085
 - ~ South Saginaw St. - (810) 743-6830

Gratiot County

- Gratiot County Commission on Aging
(989) 875-5246

St. Joseph County

- St. Joseph Commission on Aging
(269) 279-8083
- Sturgis Senior Center
(269) 651-8417
- Community Action Agency - Carol Shippy Center
(269) 273-8563

Wayne County

- Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
(313) 842-7010 -or- (313) 945-8380
- Delray United Action Council
(313) 842-8620
- North American Indian Association of Detroit Inc.
(313) 353-2966
- Senior Service Center, Luella Hannan Foundation
(313) 833-1300
- Redford Township Senior Department
(313) 832-9922
Appointments at the Redford Township Senior Department are only available to the residents of Redford Township.
- St Patrick Senior Center
(313) 833-7080
- The Village of Brush Park Manor
(313) 832-9922
Appointments at the Village of Brush Park Manor are only available to the residents of this site.
- Walter and May Reuther Senior Services
(313) 831-8650 -or- (313) 843-0402
- Apostolic Way Church of God
(313) 822-7780